

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Soviet Citizens in Tientsin

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- There are about 2,000 Soviets* living in Tientsin. Most of these are old emigres who have acquired Soviet citizenship; no emigres without Soviet passports are known to have remained in Tientsin. Some of them came from Harbin, where they had become Soviet citizens in 1946. Only a few Soviets from the USSR have arrived in Tientsin in late 1950 and early 1951.
- The only Soviet organization active in Tientsin is the Soviet Citizens Association (SCA). Almost all local Soviets** belong to it, primarily for security against Communist and police pressure. Although membership fees are supposed to be uniform, in practice they vary. Several newcomers from Harbin were admitted with an initiation fee equivalent to U.S. \$5.00, but another Harbin arrival was charged the equivalent of US \$120 upon joining and was told that the money would go into a fund for the poor.
- Through the SCA the Soviet consulate controls both the political and the social life of Soviets in Tientsin. The most important local Soviet in Tientsin, other than official Soviet government representatives, is the SCA president, Rachkovski.*** He is also the editor and publisher of the Russian-language daily newspaper Novoye Slovo, which is in every respect an official organ of the Soviet consulate. This paper, unlike some Communist publications, accepts classified and other advertisements.
- The Soviet consulate remains in its old location, and the number of its personnel has not increased noticeably in 1951. The Soviet consul general is Matveyev, a man between 40 and 45 years old; the secretary of the consulate general is Gavrilin, about 35.
- An increase in the number of Soviet official personnel from the USSR outside the consulate is noticeable, however, especially in trains from Tientsin to Peiping. These consist of both troops and civilians. Most of the Soviet civilians are employees of the Tientsin branch of Torgpredstvo, which has its main offices in Tientsin. The troops have their own messes and bakeries; one bakery, in a Tientsin suburb, produces bread for about 2,000 personnel daily.

CLASSIFICATION

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Approved For Release 2001/04/10 : CIA-RDP82-00457R007900560009-9 Date: 10 JUL 2008			<p>This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.</p> <p>Next Review Date: 2008</p>					

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. Local Soviets who wish to leave Tientsin must be in possession of a valid Soviet residence certificate, **** and the Chinese authorities will not permit them to leave unless they are members of the SCA. Papers can be cleared also through the local office of the International Refugee Organization (IRO), which is headed by Victor S. Bazeos, ***** a Greek; it is at 151 Chieh Fang Pei Lu. This office can give to persons whose papers are not in order a document certifying that they are bona fide refugees from Russia, that they are registered with IRO, and that they are eligible for refugee status under United Nations regulations. *****

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* [REDACTED] Comment. This number probably includes both Soviets from the USSR and local Soviets.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. This term is applied to emigres who have obtained Soviet passports in China or elsewhere outside the USSR, as distinguished from Soviet citizens from the USSR.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment. A. A. Rachkovski has been an official in this association since 1945.

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**** [REDACTED] Comment. This evidently refers to the "vid na zhitelstvo", issued only to new Soviet citizens outside the USSR. The Chinese require a clearance from the SCA and a de-registration stamp from the Soviet consulate in the case of all Soviet citizens leaving the area.

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***** [REDACTED] Comment. Bazeos (also spelled Baseos and Baseus) has held this position since 1948. He has always been associated with the Soviet elements of the foreign community in Tientsin and has been suspected of acting as a Soviet agent.

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***** [REDACTED] Comment. Among Soviets in Tientsin, going to the IRO office is considered a great risk, and persons with IRO papers are considered undesirable by the Soviet consulate and subject to prosecution by the Chinese Communists.